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United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

Cereal Investigations,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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**BROOM CORN** (*Andropogon sorghum technicus*).

*Dwarf.*—Broom corn is a member of the sorghum family and is grown for the long, slender panicle or brush, used for making brooms. The dwarf variety reaches a height of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 feet, depending on locality and season. The chief producing area includes western Kansas and Oklahoma, northwest Texas, and the adjacent portions of New Mexico and Colorado.

*Culture.*—Land intended for broom-corn culture should be prepared much as for maize, or Indian corn. The seed should be planted after the soil is fully warm, usually about two weeks later than maize. Planting is done with a corn planter, using special broom-corn plates, and at the rate of about 3 pounds per acre, in rows about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet apart. The land should be free from weeds, as the young plants grow very slowly at first.

*Harvesting.*—The brush should be gathered when the seed is in the milk or early dough stage. Dwarf brush is usually jerked or pulled instead of being cut. It should be cured in layers only a few inches deep and, if possible, in sheds to protect it from the sun and rain. After curing it should be carefully stripped of seed, graded, and baled.

C. R. BALL,  
*Acting Cerealist in Charge.*

FEBRUARY, 1913.

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